

TF Vector Control (Harvey) Summary September 6, 2017 (9:00 PM CDT)

Current Members:

TX Department of State Health Services
TX Department of Agriculture
ESF 8/Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
FEMA- Emergency Services
FEMA -Public Assistance
FEMA- Environmental Historical Preservation
FEMA External Affairs
Department of Defense
EPA
US Fish and Wildlife

Current Situation:

Texas requested federal support for Vector Control (mosquito). Current requirements have exceeded local and state capabilities. FEMA is coordinating pre-staging requirements for vector control in coordination with Texas Department of State Health Services (TX DSHS). Dr. Whitney Qualls, Medical Entomologist, TX DSHS is the Project Coordinator for vector control.

TX DSHS proposed and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concurred with broad aerial application of pesticides to control mosquitoes.

TX DSHS continues to determine local jurisdiction needs and capacity. Local jurisdictions with current plans and capacity will conduct activities themselves. The remainder of affected counties will be supported by TX DSHS contract with Clarke Mosquito, Inc. (Clarke) and Department of Defense (DoD) assets.

TDA reviewed and approved pesticide applicator certifications and licensures for Clarke Mosquito, Inc. and has a standing Memorandum of Agreement with DoD that will be in effect throughout the operation.

At the request of FEMA, EPA provided joint concurrence with the CDC to the State of Texas Vector Control plan to facilitate rapid acquisition of resources utilizing FEMA funding on September 6, 2017. The CDC suspended historical public health data and current surveillance requirements to generate funding. EPA further concurred with the use of insecticides containing "Naled" for aerial spray operations. TX DSHS and the TDA were jointly consulted on environmental considerations for the use of insecticides containing "Naled" per these products labelled directions.

TX DSHS continues to coordinate with the Texas State Apiarist and TDA on plans to consult and communicate with targeted citizens that may be affected in these programs (beekeepers, certified organic farmers, etc.). FEMA requested that TDA's Organic Certification Program Coordinator speak directly with several County Judge's that have concerns over aerial spray operations and disposition of organic crops in the spray areas.

TX DSHS developed preliminary mosquito spray maps which include endangered species areas, opt out communities, and spray jurisdictions (Attachment 1).

TX DSHS's contractor, Clarke, will begin aerial spray operations for mosquitoes during the dusk hours of September 7, 2017 in Refugio County and Bee County, Texas (weather permitting).

The DoD modular aerial spray system (757th Airlift Squadron, 910th Airlift Wing) will operate from Kelly Field Annex, San Antonio, Texas. The first aircraft and crew are scheduled to arrive September 7, 2017, and the remainder of the squadron will arrive September 9, 2017. DoD aerial spray operations are scheduled to begin September 11, 2017.

FEMA external affairs is coordinating closely with State media affairs on common messaging (Brad Pierce; bradly.pierce@fema.dhs.gov).

Dr. Whitney Qualls (whitney.qualls@dshs.texas.gov), TX DSHS, State Coordinator will circulate all public messaging, product data, and processes centrally through the State. The most recent press release "Texas to conduct aerial mosquito control in wake of Hurricane Harvey" was published September 6, 2017 (Attachment 2)

Tasks: None

Next TF Vector Control (Harvey) Teleconference: 4:00pm CDT September 7, 2017

Mcpherson.kenneth@epa.gov

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